

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

---



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

---

***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd W. Robinson (619) 557-7034***

---

***For Immediate Release***

## **LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED ECSTASY LABORATORY OPERATORS**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - May 26, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the sentencing in United States District Court in San Diego of defendants Dennis Louis Alba and Mark Stephen Forrester, for offenses arising from their roles in the operation of a drug-trafficking organization responsible for manufacturing and distributing the controlled substance 3,4 Methylenedioxyamphetamine, commonly known as “ecstasy.”

In July 2003, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against defendants Alba and Forrester. Defendant Alba was convicted of: being an organizer, leader and supervisor of a continuing criminal enterprise (Count 1 of the Indictment); participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute ecstasy (Count 2 of the Indictment); and conspiracy to launder drug proceeds (Counts 3 and 4 of the Indictment). Defendant Forrester was convicted of participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute ecstasy (Count 2 of the Indictment).

Today, the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan, United States District Court Judge, sentenced defendant Alba as follows: Count 1 - thirty years in prison; Count 2 - thirty years in prison; Count 3 - twenty years in prison; and Count 4 - twenty years in prison. Based on his conviction on Count 2 of the Indictment, defendant Forrester was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Judge Whelan also ordered the criminal forfeiture of \$354,226.00 and laboratory equipment seized from a clandestine laboratory in Escondido, California.

Special Agents assigned to the DEA San Diego Field Division Office were responsible for directing the investigation, which focused on a clandestine ecstasy laboratory located in Escondido, California. The targeted laboratory, the largest and most sophisticated ecstasy laboratory ever identified in the United States, was seized by DEA agents during the execution of a federal search warrant in Escondido, California, in October 2001.

### **DEFENDANTS**

Dennis Louis Alba

Mark Stephen Forrester

### **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Count 1: Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(a) - Continuing Criminal Enterprise

Count 2: Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) – Conspiracy to manufacture and distribute ecstasy

Count 3: Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h), and 1956(a)(2)(A)(i) - Conspiracy to Transfer Monetary Instruments to Promote an Unlawful Activity

Count 4: Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h) and 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) - Conspiracy to Conduct Financial Transactions to Promote an Unlawful Activity

### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly United States Customs Service)

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division

California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement

Escondido Police Department

San Diego Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory